

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NASSAU 01629 01 OF 02 301710Z

45

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 A-01 ABF-01 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01

FBO-02 EB-07 SCA-01 SCS-03 AID-05 CIAE-00 SIG-01

DHA-02 OC-05 CCO-00 /062 W
----- 053284

R 301337Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7301

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NASSAU 1629

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM AMBASSADOR; SANTO DOMINGO FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: SECURITY PROTECTION AFFORDED PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS AT
OVERSEAS POSTS

REF: (A) STATE 210312 (B) NASSAU 930 (C) NASSAU 1390 (D) SANTO
DOMINGO A-120, JUNE 6, 1974

PART I

1. I HAVE DELAYED RESPONSE TO REF A IN VIEW OF ANTICIPATED
IMMINENT ARRIVAL SY/T TEAM FROM WASHINGTON WHO WERE TO REVIEW
AND IMPLEMENT PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED SECURITY MEASURES (REF B).
TEAM IS NOW HERE AND BASED UPON OUR UP-DATED REVIEW OF EXIST-
ING AND PROPOSED MEASURES, I WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT
ON PRESENT SECURITY POSTURE OF EMBASSY NASSAU.

2. THE BAHAMAS HAS LONG ENJOYED A REPUTATION AS A QUIET,
LARGELY CRIME-FREE AREA. RELATIVELY SPEAKING, THIS IS STILL
TRUE, HOWEVER, IN KEEPING WITH THE TREND ELSEWHERE AROUND THE
WORLD AND IN PARTICULAR IN THE CARIBBEAN, SECURITY HAS BEGUN
TO DETERIORATE. ROBBERIES AND ESPECIALLY MURDERS WERE PRAC-
TICALLY UNKNOWN UP TO A FEW YEARS AGO. BOTH ARE NOW ENDEMIC --
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NASSAU 01629 01 OF 02 301710Z

SUFFICIENTLY SO THAT ALL POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE JOINED IN A

MAJOR CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE INCREASING WAVE OF CRIME. SO FAR SUCCESS HAS BEEN LIMITED.

3. ASIDE FROM THE INCREASE IN LOCAL CRIME, THE BAHAMAS IS OPEN TO INFILTRATION FROM OUTSIDE TERRORIST AND POTENTIAL TROUBLE MAKERS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY SO AS APPROXIMATELY ONE AND ONE-HALF MILLION TOURISTS ENTER THESE ISLANDS ANNUALLY, A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THEM COMING FROM THE U.S. WITHOUT REQUIREMENTS FOR PASSPORTS AND THE SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL THIS DOCUMENTATION PROVIDES. WHILE IT WOULD BE A GROSS MIS-REPRESENTATION TO AS YET CONSIDER NASSAU A PRIME TERRORIST TARGET, TWO DISTURBING EVENTS OCCURRING DURING THE LAST YEAR SUGGEST THAT THIS COULD CHANGE. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT DURING THIS PERIOD LOCAL AUTHORITIES UNCOVERED A KIDNAP CONSPIRACY AGAINST ME (REF D) AND ONLY LAST MONTH I REPORTED AN INCIDENT INVOLVING THE SIGHTING BY A BAHAMIAN SECURITY DETAIL OF TWO MEN WITH SAWED-OFF SHOTGUNS ON THE GROUNDS OF THE EMBASSY RESIDENCE (REF C).

4. IN ADDITION TO THE EASY ACCESS TO THE ISLANDS, THE POTENTIAL THREAT HERE IS INCREASED BY THE UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF POSSIBLE TARGETS FOR TERRORISTS. WE HAVE A LARGE AMERICAN RESIDENT COMMUNITY NUMBERING APPROXIMATELY 7,500 IN THE COUNTRY AND MANY OF THEM ARE SOCIALLY PROMINENT OR WELL-KNOWN CELEBRITIES. THERE IS AN AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN THE BAHAMAS TOTALING ALMOST ONE BILLION DOLLARS, AND THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF U.S. BUSINESSMEN AND EXECUTIVES WORKING HERE. THERE ARE ALSO FREQUENT VISITS OF AMERICANS PROMINENT IN INDUSTRY, THE ARTS, AND GOVERNMENT. THE TARGET FOR TERRORISM IN NASSAU IS THUS BY NO MEANS RESTRICTED TO U.S. GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL AND THE THREAT IS MAGNIFIED BY THE ALMOST NON-EXISTENT LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES OF THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT. IF, THEREFORE, THE OBJECT OF TERRORISTS IS TO SEIZE A U.S. AMBASSADOR, OTHER U.S.G. OFFICIALS OR A PROMINENT U.S. CITIZEN AND MOREOVER TO DO SO ON DOORSTEP OF U.S., NASSAU IS MADE TO ORDER. SO FAR THIS HAS FORTUNATELY NOT APPEARED TO OCCUR TO TERRORISTS.

5. FINALLY, AS NOTED ABOVE, THERE IS A HIGH CRIME RATE; IN THE ISLANDS PARTICULARLY NEW PROVIDENCE AND GRAND BAHAMA (FREEPORT) AND IT SHOWS NO SIGN OF LEVELING OFF. THIS CRIME

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NASSAU 01629 01 OF 02 301710Z

FOR MOST PART IS NEITHER RACIALLY NOR POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, BUT RATHER SETS THE HAVE-NOTS AGAINST THE HAVES. (ONE EXCEPTION IS PATTERN OF ATTACKS ON HAITIANS AND JAMAICANS BY BAHAMIANS.) U.S. EMBASSY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF INCIDENTS OF CRIME WITH TWO EMBASSY FAMILIES THREATENED AT RIFLE AND SHOTGUN POINT LAST YEAR AND INNUMERABLE CASES OF THEFTS FROM THE RESIDENCES OF EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS. I HAVE, THEREFORE, CONCLUDED THAT WHILE A PERSONAL SECURITY THREAT IS NOT YET SEVERE

NOR POLITICALLY ORIENTED, NEITHER CAN IT BE DESCRIBED AS NON-EXISTENT AND WE WOULD BE LESS THAN WISE WERE WE TO DISCOUNT SUMMARILY THE POTENTIAL FOR A FUTURE INCIDENT. I BELIEVE THAT THIS POST, ALTHOUGH RELATIVELY TRANQUIL, NEEDS TO HAVE IN PLACE WHAT I CONSIDER TO BE THE MINIMUM NUMBERS OF PRECAUTION-ARY MEASURES AND PROTECTIVE DEVICES WHICH HAVE BEEN DEEMED NECESSARY ELSEWHERE. SOME OF THESE MEASURES HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BUREAU AND SY EXPERTS. OTHERS ARE BEING SUGGESTED SPECIFICALLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEED TO PROVIDE BETTER SECURITY PROTECTION FOR OUR PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS. PART II OF THIS MESSAGE IDENTIFIES MEASURES WE HAVE PROPOSED AND THEIR CURRENT STATUS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT IN A FEW INSTANCES HIGH PRIORITY ITEMS HAVE NOT YET BEEN APPROVED AND/OR EMPLACED.

PART II

CHANCERY - PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED MEASURES (SEE REFS (B) AND (D)).

A. REPLACE CONSULAR SECTION GLASS DOORS WITH WOODEN DOORS AND LOCKS.

(1) OBTAINING COST ESTIMATES AND WILL REQUEST APPROVAL.

B. REPLACE GLASS OVER CONSULAR DOORS WITH SOLID WALL

(1) OBTAINING COST ESTIMATES AND WILL REQUEST APPROVAL.

C. REPLACE COMMERCIAL SECTION GLASS DOOR WITH SOLID WOODEN DOOR.

(1) OBTAINING COST ESTIMATES AND WILL REQUEST APPROVAL.

D. INSTALL STEEL GRILL WORK ON ALL WINDOWS.

(1) APPROVED, FUNDED AND UNDERWAY.

E. INSTALL VARIOUS LOCKS AND LATCHES ON DOORS LOCATED IN CONSULAR, COMMERCIAL AND OTHER SECTIONS.

(1) INSTALLATIONS UNDERWAY BY SY/T TEAM.

F. INSTALL EXTERIOR LIGHTING AT CHANCERY.

(1) SURVEY BEING CONDUCTED BY LOCAL FIRM. COST ESTIMATES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NASSAU 01629 01 OF 02 301710Z

WILL BE OBTAINED AND FORWARDED FOR APPROVAL.

G. OBTAIN AND INSTALL AN EMERGENCY STANDBY GENERATOR.

(1) PROJECT HAS BEEN PENDING FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS.

(A) GENERATOR WAS PART OF PACKAGE INCLUDING SHIELDED AREA FOR UP-DATED COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY. UNDERSTAND THIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NASSAU 01629 02 OF 02 301709Z

45

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 A-01 ABF-01 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01

OC-05 EB-07 SCA-01 SCS-03 AID-05 CIAE-00 SIG-01 DHA-02

CCO-00 FBO-02 /062 W

----- 053267

R 301337Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7302

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NASSAU 1629

PROJECT IS NOT APPROVED FOR FUNDING. HOWEVER, SINCE EMBASSY HAS NO REPEAT NO COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY ONCE CITY ELECTRICITY FAILS, A NOT INFREQUENT OCCURRENCE, GENERATOR IS A HIGH PRIORITY REQUIREMENT. (BUILD-

ING OCCUPIED BY EMBASSY DOES HAVE AN AUXILIARY GENERATOR, PRESENTLY DISABLED, BUT EVEN WHEN OPERATIVE, IT IS INSUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE POWER FOR OUR COMMUNICATIONS. IT IS ALSO LOCATED OUTSIDE BUILDING AND THUS HIGHLY VULNERABLE.) SY/T TEAM ASSISTING IN DETERMINING SPECIFICATIONS OF GENERATOR TO MEET REQUIREMENTS. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL AND FUNDING WILL BE FORWARDED IMMEDIATELY. THIS IS A PRIORITY ITEM.

H. INSTALL CCTV EQUIPMENT COVERING CONSULAR ENTRANCE AND EXTERIOR OF BUILDING WITH APPROPRIATE LIGHTING.

(1) APPROVED AND UNDERWAY.

I. INSTALL SY/T DESIGNED MSG DESK.

(1) PROJECT UNDERWAY BY SY/T TEAM.

J. INSTALL BULLET RESISTANT GLASS DOOR AND ELECTRONIC LATCH FOR SECOND FLOOR LEADING TO MSG RECEPTIONIST AREA.

(1) PROPOSAL FOR LOCAL INSTALLATION HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO SY/T FOR EVALUATION.

CHANCERY - NEWLY RECOMMENDED MEASURES TO BETTER PROTECT PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS

A. INSTALL BULLET RESISTANT GLASS FOR CONSULAR CASHIER AND INTERVIEW WINDOWS AND MODIFY DOCUMENT PASSING SLOT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NASSAU 01629 02 OF 02 301709Z

KQL PROPOSAL UNDER REVIEW BY SY/T TEAM.

B. INSTALL ALARMS ON CONSULAR AND COMMERCIAL DOORS AFTER INSTALLING WOODEN DOORS TO REPLACE GLASS (SEE B. AND C. ABOVE).

(1) SY/T WILL SUPPLY ALARMS AND EQUIPMENT.

C. INSTALL HIDDEN ALARM AT CONSULAR RECEPTIONIST DESK TO ALERT MSG AND ANOTHER FROM MSG DESK TO C&R AND AMBASSADOR'S SUITE.

(1) SY/T TEAM WILL INSTALL DURING PRESENT VISIT.

D. INSTALL WALLS AND GATES WITH LOCKING DEVICE TO SECURE FRONT AND REAR PARKING AREAS. VEHICLE ENTRANCE WILL BE CONTROLLED BY CARD HOLDERS.

(1) REAR WALL AND GATE WILL BE INSTALLED BY THE LANDLORD AND WILL COMMENCE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

(2) THE ONLY ACCESS TO THE EMBASSY FRONT ENTRANCE IS THROUGH THE FRONT PARKING LOT. PARKING IN THIS AREA IS EXCLUSIVELY RESERVED FOR OTHER OFFICES RENTING SPACE IN THE BUILDING AND IS USUALLY CONGESTED BY UNAUTHORIZED VEHICLES BLOCKING THE BUILDING'S FRONT ENTRANCE. RSO RECOMMENDS THAT A WALL AND GATE SYSTEM BE INSTALLED TO CONTROL THIS VULNERABLE AREA. EMBASSY PRESENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH LANDLORD TO FUND THIS PROJECT, HOWEVER, IF HE IS NEGATIVE TO THIS PROPOSAL, WILL OBTAIN PLAN AND ESTIMATES AND WILL FORWARD TO DEPARTMENT FOR EVALUATION, APPROVAL AND FUNDING.

NEW OFFICIAL RESIDENCE - PREVIOUS IDENTIFIED MEASURES

A. RAISE OR REPLACE PRESENT FRONT FOUR FOOT WALL TO HEIGHT OF EIGHT FEET.

(1) COST ESTIMATE BEING PREPARED TO CONSTRUCT AN EIGHT FOOT WALL AFTER REMOVING EXISTING ROCK/MORTAR WALL. WILL FORWARD UPON RECEIPT.

(2) VARIOUS OTHER PROPOSALS AND ESTIMATES ARE PRESENTLY UNDER STUDY.

B. EXTERIOR SECURITY LIGHTING.

(1) WILL OBTAIN SKETCH AND ESTIMATES WILL BE FORWARDED FOR APPROVAL AND FUNDING.

C. INSTALL ELECTRONIC GATE FOR FRONT ENTRANCE.

(1) WILL OBTAIN DETAILS AND ESTIMATES AND FORWARD FOR APPROVAL AND FUNDING.

D. CONSTRUCT GUARD/GENERATOR HOUSE.

(1) PRELIMINARY DESIGN APPROVED BY FBO. AWAITING COST ESTIMATES WHICH WILL BE FORWARDED UPON RECEIPT FOR FINAL APPROVAL.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NASSAU 01629 02 OF 02 301709Z

E. INSTALL 10 FOOT CHAIN LINK FENCE ON THREE SIDES OF PROPERTY.

(1) PROPOSAL APPROVED, HOWEVER, LOCATION OF EAST BOUNDARY HAS NOT BEEN RESOLVED BECAUSE OF FBO'S RECOMMENDATION TO SELL ADJOINING PROPERTY.

(RSO COMMENT: ON-SITE SURVEY CURRENTLY UNDERWAY BY SY/T TEAM CONCERNING THE INSTALLATION OF ALARM SYSTEMS FOR THE PERIMETER FENCING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PLACEMENT OF THE EASTERN BOUNDARY FENCE SIXTY TO NINETY FEET INSIDE ADJOINING PROPERTY WILL PROVIDE OPTIMUM SECURITY AND PREVENT UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS TO PROXIMITY OF RESIDENCE, GAZEBO, AND POOL AREAS.)

F. INSTALL WINDOW AND DOOR LOCK (MAIN HOUSE, GAZEBO AND POOL

HOUSE).

(1) SITE SURVEY CURRENTLY UNDERWAY BY SY/T TEAM TO DETERMINE
ADEQUATE LOCKS.

NEW RESIDENCE - NEWLY RECOMMENDED MEASURES

A. INSTALL PERIMETER SECURITY SYSTEM ALARMS.

(1) ON SITE SURVEY CURRENTLY UNDERWAY BY ST/T TEAM.

B. TO REPLACE KITCHEN AND REAR BEDROOM DOORS OF THE GUEST
HOUSE WITH SOLID WOODEN DOORS AFFIXED WITH SY/T PROVIDED LOCKS.

ALSO TO INSTALL SUITABLE LOCK ON THE FRONT GLASSED DOORS AND
AN ALARM SYSTEM WITH MONITOR AT THE GUARD POST.

(1) SY/T SURVEY UNDERWAY.

WEISS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NASSAU01629
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750338-0817
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975091/aaaaaapb.tel
Line Count: 290
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 210312, 75 NASSAU 930, 75 NASSAU 1390
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY PROTECTION AFFORDED PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS AT OVERSEAS POSTS
TAGS: ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006